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NEWS RELEASE

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UM SCHOOL ANNOUNCES RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana's new School of Public and Community Health Sciences has announced its first Research Award winners.

John Felton, who is pursuing a master's degree in public health at the University, and UM Assistant Professor Duncan Campbell were recognized for their outstanding research in the discipline of public health during the school's Student Orientation Aug. 29.

In addition to the Research Award, each recipient received \$100 and presented his work to the school's students, faculty members and public health professionals.

Felton, who is executive vice president for operations at RiverStone Health in **Billings** and assistant health officer for Yellowstone County, was recognized for his work documenting the identification, intervention and management strategies during the widespread 2006 outbreak of norovirus in Billings – the largest community-based norovirus outbreak ever documented.

He co-authored an article, "Quelling a Norovirus Outbreak," that appeared in the fall/winter 2007 edition of Northwest Public Health. The bottom line, Felton said, is that "public health is much more than an academic exercise or routine government function – it is part of the very fabric of society."

Campbell was recognized for his work on the prevalence and correlates of comorbid post-traumatic stress disorder among depressed military veteran primary care patients.

He and colleagues compared demographic and illness characteristics of patients identified as having both PTSD and depression with those having depression alone. Their research led to the conclusion that probable PTSD is common among depressed primary care patients, and that patients with both depression and PTSD are likely to experience increased illness burden, poorer prognosis and delayed response to standard primary care depression treatments.

Campbell was the lead author of an article derived from the study, "Prevalence of Depression – PTSD Cormorbidity: Implications for Clinical Practice Guidelines and Primary Care-based Interventions," published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine. He is a faculty member in UM's Department of Psychology and an affiliate faculty member of the School of Community and Public Health Sciences.

The school, housed in UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, offers academic online learning programs that lead to a master's degree in public health or a Certificate of Public Health. More information is online at

<http://www.health.umt.edu/pubhealth>.

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